

The ArchLou Deacon

DIACONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE | MARCH-APRIL 2025



From the Diaconal Director

Dear Friends, My Dear Companions on the Journey,

*Have mercy on me God in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.
Wash me more and more from guilt
And cleanse me from my sin (Psalm 51:3-4).*



During this penitential season of Lent, we find ourselves on a campaign of Christian service where — with holy fasting — we take up battle against spiritual evils. As we pray Psalm 51 in the Liturgy of the Hours each Friday morning throughout the year, we may not consider that King David offered this confession, illustrated repentance, and requested forgiveness for having orchestrated the demise of his generals so that he may take the general's wife. Psalm 51 is a simple reminder that being divinely selected and abundantly favored by God neither ensures our faithfulness, or prevents us from inflicting significant pain on others.

However, we have the grace of our sacramental life that arms us with weapons of self-restraint, fosters unity among us, and aids in the healing of our sins and divisions. Playing a crucial role in guiding us to fulfill our vocations of love, reflecting the image and likeness of God, the sacramental life empowers us with the strength necessary to live out our unique call to love and to bear witness to Christ, who embodies the way, the truth, and the life.

Our inherent need for sacraments arises from a deep-seated desire for God's grace, a gift that He wishes for us to embrace. Grace can be simply defined as "participation in the life of God," akin to how children share in their parents' lives. Without divine assistance, our ability to live righteously would be severely compromised. The holy sacraments facilitate our access to this divine help, inviting the Lord to engage actively in our daily lives while affirming our commitment to Him. In my experience teaching about sacraments in high school, I emphasized that they serve as vital connections to the Lord. They not only seek God's guidance in our moral choices amid the struggle between good and evil, but also reinforce our familial relationship with Him.

It is important to recognize that we will face challenges and must exert considerable effort to make moral decisions aligned with a righteous life. No one is exempt from trials and tribulations. While engaging in a sacramental life does not promise an absence of difficulties, the sacraments equip us with the resilience needed to persevere. ✕ —F. DeKarlos Blackmon

I am incredibly appreciative of the warm welcome I have received since arriving in the Archdiocese of Louisville. The hospitality Kanobia and I have experienced has been a highlight of my time in Central Kentucky. I look forward to many more opportunities of growing together in fellowship with the entire diaconal community as we build an even greater civilization of love! — DeKarlos

Archdiocese of Louisville Diaconal Ministry

Deacons, as ministers, are not exempt from the missionary obligation of the universal Church. Hence, deacons should always remain open to the *missio ad gentes* [mission to the nations] to the extent that professional or family obligations permit (cf. *Directory for the Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons*, §27).

Archbishop

Most Rev. Shelton J. Fabre

Director

Dr. F. DeKarlos Blackmon, OblSB

Associate Director

Deacon Mark A. Preischel

Secretary

Madeline Kincaid

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Diaconal Ministry promotes the Diaconate by disseminating pertinent information, selecting and training candidates, providing opportunities for continuing education, and coordinating the pastoral supervision of ordained permanent deacons. In addition Diaconal Ministry provides support for the wives, widows and families of the deacons.



From the Associate Director for Diaconal Formation

I would like to encourage everyone to attend our April ongoing formation session with Father Aaron Wessman. Father Aaron is the First Vice President (Vicar General) and the Director of Formation of the Glenmary Home Missioners. Father Aaron earned a doctorate in Systematic Theology from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. You can find his book “The Church’s Mission in a Polarized World” at several online retailers.



Also, a reminder for the deacons to sign up to have your picture taken for the pictorial directory. This will provide a means for parish staff members to recognize you when you are assisting around the Archdiocese. In case you missed it, is a [link to the Sign-Up Genius](#) for this.

Finally, while we encourage everyone to attend the ongoing formation sessions arranged by Diaconal Ministry, we also understand that it will also be necessary to provide some other opportunities for formation. If you need alternatives, please consider attending one or more classes offered by the Office of Faith Formation. We have listed several options of ongoing formation or please see their [blog](#) for more information.

Peace,
Deacon Mark



Annual Christmas Party with deacons, wives, and families in December 2024

Ongoing Diaconal Formation

April 5, 2025

Contributing to a De-Polarized World

with Father Aaron Wessman

Saint Joseph Proto-Cathedral | 9:00am-2:30pm

August 16, 2025

Blessings of the Eucharist

with Father Jim Farrell

To Be Determined | 9:00am-2:30pm

November 8, 2025

The Role of Mary in the Church

with Agnes Kovacs

To Be Determined | 9:00am-2:30pm

Ongoing Faith Formation Opportunities

To register, contact Lynn McDaniel, lmcdaniel@archlou.org

March 22, 2025

Science and Faith

with Adam Zoeller via Zoom

March 24, 2025

Thomas Merton and Pope Francis: Voices for Change in Cultures of Unrest

with Dr. Thomas Malewitz

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Louisville | 3:30pm-6:30pm

April 12, 2025

Overview of Catechetical Ministry Part II

with Mary Hynes

Saint Aloysius Parish, Pewee Valley | 9:00am-12:00pm

April 28, 2025

Christus Vivit:

Exploring the Apostolic Exhortation for Young People

with Dr. Thomas Malewitz

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Louisville | 3:30pm-6:30pm

May 14, 2025

Overview of Catechetical Ministry Part II

with Debbie Minton

Saint Thomas Parish, Bardstown | 6:00pm-8:30pm



LENT

Our campaign of Christian service

As our lives are filled with countless challenges, how do we allow our faith to strengthen all we do? The Lenten season encourages us to refresh and deepen our faith. To such an extent that we discern annually our Lenten sacrifice, we purposefully ask the Lord to help us “that we may begin, with holy fasting, this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint” (Collect, Ash Wednesday).

The Lenten season provides us a 40-day period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to recall how through baptism we shared in Christ’s death, died to evil and sin and began a new life in Christ. We praise God that Jesus Christ paid it all (cf. 1 Cor 15:3; 1 Pt 2:24), for it is to him we owe a great debt of gratitude.

Therefore, let’s endeavor to make time to pray and encourage those around us to pray, as we seek to desire conversation with the Lord. Let’s bear witness to one another, particularly those who are not in regular practice of the faith, as we seek to imitate Christ by seeking out the lost and bringing to them the Good News. Let’s minister the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned (cf. Mt 25:35-36), as we seek to encounter Christ through the works of justice that are pleasing to God” (CCC 2462).

May this Lent, our campaign of Christian service, help us to focus on the Lord, to remain in his gaze, to allow him into our hearts and to allow him to guide us. If we are open to it, this Lent can be the most powerful and spiritual season to date.



KANOBIA
RUSSELL-
BLACKMON

EASTER

A great festival of the “totality of human life”

The Solemnity of the Resurrection of Our Lord is a great festival of human life. As we celebrate Christ conquering corruption and death, we also take this time of promise to be refreshed in Christian belief and faith, to be restored to Christian trust and confidence.

Considering the suffering and death of Christ and his self-oblation in the eternal Spirit, Pope Benedict XVI of happy memory told us that Christ has become our high priest and “the mediator of a new covenant” (Hebrews 9:15). Confessing the Credo, we acclaim that we believe in God, the Creator of heaven and earth. On this solemnity, we celebrate God who was made man, in all things like us but sin. On this solemnity, a day we regard as the origin and the goal of our existence, we rejoice in the perfect victory of our God.

In our rejoicing, let us never forget the important tasks we have to evangelize, and to spread the good news of salvation to all, particularly those who are broken. The Church Fathers of the Second Vatican Council spoke powerfully of the very important responsibility of the laity in promoting the mission of the Church through our efforts to serve as a leaven of the gospel in the community and to work to advance the kingdom of God in the world (*Lumen Gentium* 31; *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 7). We must use this rejuvenation in belief and faith to tell the world of the marvels of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

May we become ever more cognizant of our inherent dignity as a priestly people. Each of us is called by name to dedicate the world to the Most Holy Trinity through lives of beatific faith.



Dr. F.
DeKARLOS
BLACKMON



Evrard Muhoza

Archbishop Shelton will ordain Evrard Muhoza a deacon on April 26 at 11:00am at the Cathedral of the Assumption. All deacons are invited to participate with stole and dalmatic. Please RSVP with the Office of Worship to ensure appropriate seating.

What attracted you to the priesthood? My uncle is a priest. Since I was young, I saw him as the one who united the families. If there was any conflict among my other uncles, or the neighbors, or even my parents, he would be the one who would come to calm things down and unite them again. The priesthood for me was a sign of unity, especially when I saw how my uncle united everybody. I wanted to be a man who bring unity to others.

Who or what influenced you to begin study for the priesthood? There have been many priests who influenced me in my discernment. One of them was my parish associate priest, who helped a lot within my discernment. In my second year living here in the United States, I went to him and told him that I wanted to go to the seminary, but I was afraid because I did not know English. I was also afraid because I have always prayed in Kirundi, and I did not

know any prayer in English. Since then, he started to teach me the prayers. He also taught me the history of the diocese, and the basic things I needed to know.

What were you doing before the seminary? Before I joined the seminary, I was a student at Jeffersontown High School in Louisville.

Favorite saint and why? Saint Maria Goretti is my favorite saint. She was a role model for me in my first years here in the United States. The way she forgave Alexandro inspired me to also forgive those who wanted to kill my parents, forcing us to flee Burundi. Also, she is my favorite because I grew up singing in a children's choir at my home parish that was named after her.

Favorite Scripture verse and why? The compassion of Jesus (Matthew 9:35-38). This verse reminds me of the compassion that Jesus had for the people he encountered in his ministry. In a way, I see the call to priesthood coming from this compassion. God responds to the troubled and abandoned by sending them those who remind them of his love.

Hobbies? I have a lot of hobbies. Recently, my main hobbies have been playing soccer, singing, dancing, slowly learning how to play piano and the organ, and learning a new language.

Best advice you've heard in seminary? The priesthood is not a license or a right, it is a gift.

DEACON COUNCIL

Consultative bodies create opportunities for consultation, communication, and dialogue in the deliberative process. These frameworks offer engagement that transcends mere formality, ensuring that those consulted have a genuine opportunity to contribute.



The Council on the Permanent Diaconate (the Diaconal Advisory Council), a consultative body representing the diaconal community, serves to provide advice and counsel to the Archbishop and the Director of Diaconal Ministry. The Diaconal Advisory Council consists of persons appointed by the Archbishop, who strives to appoint persons to ensure the membership reflects a fair representation of the community.

DeKarlos Blackmon convened a meeting of the new Council on the Permanent Diaconate (Diaconal Advisory Council), with Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre at Flaget Retreat Center in Louisville on Saturday, February 22.

Archbishop Shelton emphasized the importance of the council's mission of coming together as one archdiocese from all the deaneries and how the

decisions of this council will affect the whole archdiocesan family. The archbishop explained that consultative bodies such as this play a vital role in delivering communication to our communities so while there may not always be agreement there can be greater understanding.

Archbishop Shelton expressed his hope that the council will promote the healthy life of the diaconal community

and thanked all members of the council for their sacrifice of time and expertise.

Members were reminded that the role of the council is to advise the Archbishop on the community. There was especially a broad overview of the role of members, namely, to (a) promote fellowship within deaneries; (b) disseminate information; (c) respond to issues in real time; (d) bring concerns to Diaconal Ministry to manage or to add items to the next agenda depending on urgency; and (e) to ensure the importance of the representation of wives.

Members of the Diaconal Advisory Council are Deacon Jim Shields (Deanery 1),

Deacon Lucio Caruso (Deanery 2), Deacon Mark Kelley (Deanery 3), Deacon Ken Roberts (Deanery 4), Deacon Joe Calvert (Deanery 5), Deacon Steve Heil (Deanery 6), Deacon Joe Dant (Deanery 7), Deacon Bruce Sullivan (Deanery 8), Gina Ryan, Mistianna Barnes, Deacon Dean Giulitto, Deacon Dennis Nash, Deacon Mark Preischel, and DeKarlos Blackmon.

During the initial meeting of the council, there were nominations and elections of the officers of the council. After a few rounds of voting Deacon Steve Heil was elected chairperson and Deacon Mark Kelley was elected vice chairperson of the Diaconal Advisory Council.

Happy Birthday

We praise you, because we are wonderfully made; wonderful are your works!

JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL

(Psalm 139:14)

JANUARY

1 - Stephen Marks
2 - Linda Downs
3 - John Lewis
4 - Samuel King
6 - Patricia Beckham
6 - James Richerson
7 - Mary Paula Fargen
8 - Anthony Brown
9 - Francisco Villalobos
13 - Jane Newton
14 - Claudia Bent
14 - Gregory McCord
15 - Robert Dever
15 - Bruce Sullivan
15 - Judith Wheatley
17 - Mary Baker
17 - Rick Fagan
17 - Celia Schook
18 - Marissa Herberger
21 - Kenneth Carter
22 - Pat Drerup
22 - Joe Raibert
22 - Betty Vessels
24 - Thy Uyen Phan
25 - Marcos Fuster
25 - Aurelio Puga
25 - Claudette Simmons
28 - Lauren Antile
28 - Veronica Kromer
28 - Mary Jo Mattingly

FEBRUARY

4 - Kelly Stout
6 - Butch Kinsella
7 - Dave Dalton
8 - Theresa Marks
9 - Todd Auffrey
12 - Anthony Hasson
13 - James Abell
13 - Linda Carter
13 - Andy Heinsohn
15 - Katherine Arnold
15 - Kimberly Caruso
15 - Ted Lockett
15 - Sandy Wright
17 - Michael Tolbert
17 - Mary Turner
18 - Robert Bryant
20 - Patricia Markert
20 - Marysue McNally
20 - Mike Ryan
22 - John Simpson
22 - Mercedes Molina
23 - Tracy Gitschier
25 - David Maxwell
25 - Steve Heil
25 - Michael Schmitt
26 - Charles Brown
29 - Terry Roberts

MARCH

1 - Jerry Babin
1 - Joyce Edwards
2 - Virginia Bland
2 - Michael Shumway
3 - Louise Hammond
3 - Laurie Warren
4 - Darlene Osborne
7 - Tracy Johnson
7 - Barbara Klump
8 - Susan Babin
10 - Carolyn Dachille
12 - Carl Fahringer
17 - Trey Mobley
19 - Joyce Ralston
20 - Armando Avalos Torres
20 - Greg Beavin
20 - William Clark
20 - Tommie Stewart
23 - Mike Edwards
24 - Debra Jones
24 - Susan Sears
24 - Pat Wright
26 - Joseph Dant
27 - Connie Buehner
28 - Emily McCarty
30 - Kaye Dalton
30 - Patrick Harris
30 - Monika Villalobos
31 - Mary Lam Tran

APRIL

1 - Martha Tribbey
2 - Cheryl Biven
5 - Kelly Kramer
6 - Darryl Diemer
9 - Mike Fitzmayer
9 - Will Tribbey
10 - Williams Downs
11 - Naomi Brown
11 - Susan Cotter
11 - Susan Scholl
12 - Theresa Corrigan
14 - Dean Giulitto
14 - Denny Nash
17 - Ken Burchett
20 - Mary Becker
20 - John Grant
23 - Elizabeth Auffrey
23 - Jane Bartley
24 - John Froehlich
24 - Paul Godfrey
25 - Joe Calvert
26 - May Giulitto
26 - Regina Ryan
27 - John Wagner
28 - Nick Dachille
29 - Shannon Age
29 - Steve DaPonte
29 - Devon Strain
30 - Nicki Clark
30 - Diane Maguire
30 - Tim May
30 - Bruce Warren

DIACONAL MINISTRY

Annual Retreat

...to live out with "humble charity" diaconal ministry
while assisting pastors for the good of God's people



The Reverend

THOMAS "TOM" REITMEYER, JCL

The Reverend Thomas Reitmeyer serves as an ecclesiastical judge, promoter of justice (*ad causam*), and pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in the Diocese of Austin. Ordained to the diaconate in 2014 and to the priesthood in 2015, Father Reitmeyer earned a bachelors degree in Biochemistry and Genetics from Texas A&M University; attended Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving and Saint Mary's Seminary in Houston where he earned a Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Theology, and Bachelor of Sacred Theology; and earned a Licentiate in Canon Law from The Catholic University of America.

Father Reitmeyer served as a dispatcher, patrol officer, crime scene investigator, field training officer, and detective in the College Station Police Department before discerning the priesthood.

In addition to parochial ministry assignments, he has served the Diocese of Austin as a member of the Priestly Life and Formation Committee, director of the Early Ministry Program, Diaconate Admission and Scrutinies Committee, Priest Pension Plan and Trust Committee, Priest Personnel Board, and the Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Review Board.



Liturgy, Word, and Charity
for the People of God



Saint Meinrad June 27-29



ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE

Diaconal Ministry

Dr. F. DeKarlos Blackmon, OblSB | *Director*
Deacon Mark A. Preischel | *Associate Director*



Please contact Madeline Kincaid at diaconate@archlou.org for more information.